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**HECB to host delegation of Russian Far East educators**

**OLYMPIA** — The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board will host a delegation of 10 educators from the Russian Far East as they visit the state Oct. 23.

Marc Gaspard, executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), said this visit will provide an excellent opportunity for exchange of information about the differences in higher education between two nations.

“We are delighted to have been chosen as one of the organizations to meet this esteemed delegation from Russia,” Gaspard said.

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation (FRAEC), based in Seattle, are coordinating the visit.

The Russian delegates are part of FRAEC’s Community Connection Program, a professional exchange program that provides interactive training for Russian professionals through internships, seminars, home stays, and cultural activities. The program relies on the expertise and hospitality of the Pacific Northwest to provide professional development experience and cultural exchange. Programs focus on business and management skills, business development policy, non-profit management and educational policy.

The delegates are from Primorsky Krai, an administrative division of Russia located between the Sea of Japan to the east and China to the west. It is the southernmost part of the Russian Far Eastern territories. It is mostly urbanized, with the largest cities being the regional capital, Vladivostok, and Nakhodka, Dainerechensk and Ussuriisk.

The visitors have a diverse background in higher education issues. Several are administrators responsible for specific programs at different universities. Others are professors specializing in business and economics, and one is associated with the Russian federal employment service.

The HECB will provide an overview of Washington’s higher education system.

The delegation also plans to visit the Secretary of State and other elected officials later in the day.

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